

**Important  
information  
for your  
safety**

Information for the local area and  
for the public

pursuant to Section 8a and Section 11 in conjunction with Annex V of  
the German Major Accidents Ordinance (Störfallverordnung)

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Local area and environmental hotline +49 (0) 57 64 2 91 1 23

As at: June 2022

## **Dear neighbours, visitors and employees,**

At the Steyerberg site we, Oxxynova GmbH, operate a chemical plant assigned to the top class of the Major Accidents Ordinance (12th Ordinance on the Implementation of the Federal Immission Control Act – BImSchV). Section 11 of this ordinance requires the operator to inform the local area and the public of the scale, as well as the correct conduct in the event of an incident.

In this information document we describe:

- hazardous substances that we handle on our site
- what can happen in the event of an incident and, above all,
- how you can effectively protect yourself from the consequences of an incident

We particularly ask our neighbours to carefully read through this information document and store it in a readily accessible place, such as together with the local telephone directory.

### **What is produced in our plant?**

As its main business, our plant operates a production facility for manufacturing dimethyl terephthalate (DMT) and the associated storage of the raw materials para-xylene and methanol.

DMT is a raw material used in the manufacture of PET and PBT plastics, which can be found in numerous everyday objects, such as textile fibres in car seatbelts, foils for packaging and as an engineering plastic in car manufacturing and electrical appliances.

Para-xylene is delivered by rail in rail tankers, while methanol is delivered by road in road tankers. During production, the para-xylene is oxidised with air at a high temperature and pressure and then esterified with methanol. In the next step, the DMT is purified to the final quality by distillation and recrystallisation.

The liquid product is then filled into special road tankers at a temperature of approx. 160 °C and transported to our customers.

We also manufacture DMT in solid form, as powder and briquettes and recycle organic side-streams, which arise in various processes in the chemical industry, through distillation. These include tetrahydrofuran (a solvent), butanediol (raw material for manufacturing PBT plastic) and monoethylene glycol (raw material for manufacturing PET plastic).

Furthermore, waste containing reusable material, which corresponds to the product portfolio of solvents and glycols, is professionally processed and made available on the market again as high-quality pure products. Waste that cannot be reused is disposed of using a thermal process in the waste and residue incineration plant.

### **Substances that may cause an incident**

Operations are subject to the Major Accidents Ordinance if prescribed minimum thresholds of certain chemicals are exceeded. In our facility, we comply with strict precautions for the substances para-xylene, tetrahydrofuran and methanol. The following table summarises the potential hazards that these substances pose for people and the environment.









Material/symbol	Hazards for people and the environment
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Methanol</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;">    </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Hazard</p>	<p>Methanol is toxic when inhaled, in contact with skin and when ingested.</p> <p>When inhaled, the mucous membranes may be irritated or this may lead to drowsiness and dizziness.</p> <p>Methanol is a highly flammable liquid that can form a potentially explosive mixture together with air. Methanol is flammable.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Para-xylene</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;">    </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Hazard</p>	<p>Para-xylene is hazardous to health when inhaled and in contact with the skin.</p> <p>Para-xylene is a highly flammable liquid that can form a potentially explosive mixture together with air. Para-xylene is flammable.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tetrahydrofuran (THF)</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Hazard</p>	<p>Tetrahydrofuran is a highly flammable liquid that forms a potentially explosive mixture together with air and can form potentially explosive peroxides in the presence of atmospheric oxygen. Tetrahydrofuran is flammable.</p> <p>When inhaled, the mucous membranes may be irritated or this may lead to drowsiness and dizziness.</p>

Table: Substances in accordance with the Major Accidents Ordinance

### What effects can an incident have on people and the environment?

Although the necessary precautions have been taken on the premises, fires, explosions or the release of hazardous substances cannot be ruled out entirely. A fire, explosion or the release of large quantities of the aforementioned substances may lead to health risks from the inhalation of fumes in the immediate environment. The discharge of heat transfer oil may also contaminate the groundwater. A fire or explosion may lead to exposure to heat and noise as well as flying parts in the immediate surrounds.

DMT itself hardens when it is discharged, so it does not present a risk within the meaning of the Major Accidents Ordinance.

### Precautions and hazard prevention

If an incident occurs on the premises, our emergency and hazard prevention plan takes effect. This is arranged with the competent authorities. External emergency personnel and the competent authorities are immediately alerted if incidents occur, whose effects extend beyond the plant limits. Flecken Steyerberg, tasked with hazard prevention, and the district of Nienburg/Weser, as the disaster control authority, are responsible for combating the effects of incidents outside the company premises.

The fire brigade or police warn and give the all-clear for our local area through loudspeaker announcements or by personally visiting affected neighbours. All orders issued by emergency and rescue services must be followed.

### **Notes for your safety**

The following safety instructions provide information on how you are informed in the event of an incident and provide a guide on correct behaviour.

#### Orders issued by emergency personnel must be followed

The fire brigade and police will use loudspeakers to tell you what you need to do and the measures being implemented by the emergency personnel. Pay attention to all-clear announcements issued by the police and fire brigade loudspeaker van.

#### Turn the radio on

Your regular local radio station will provide up-to-date information on an incident.

#### Information on the internet

Information is also available on the district of Nienburg/Weser's website (**[www.lk-nienburg.de](http://www.lk-nienburg.de)**). In addition, you can download the **free citizen info and warning app (BIWAPP)** from this website.

#### Neighbours

- Immediately call your children indoors and inform your immediate neighbours.
- Help elderly and disabled persons and provide temporary shelter to passers-by.

#### Remain in closed buildings

- Do not remain outside, make sure that you go into a closed building.
- Immediately close doors and windows – air-tight if possible.
- Turn off ventilation and air-conditioning systems.
- Move to internal rooms on upper floors if possible.

#### Rescue services

In case of adverse health effects, contact your general practitioner or an emergency medical service.

- In serious cases, contact the rescue service or fire brigade directly.
- Remain indoors and keep roads and paths clear for the emergency personnel.

#### Use of emergency telephone numbers

Only use emergency telephone numbers 110 (police) and 112 (fire brigade and rescue service) for emergencies. Otherwise, keep the lines free!

### **Emergency management**

As an operator, we are obliged to take appropriate measures to prevent incidents on our operating premises and to limit the effect of incidents to the greatest possible extent – including in cooperation with the emergency and rescue services. To ensure that this is the case, we have taken the following technical and organisational precautions:

- Our entire plant has an explosion-protected design.

- All explosion protection measures are specified in an explosion protection document.
- Flammable substances are enveloped in nitrogen.
- The majority of our columns are operated in vacuum mode.
- The plant is continuously monitored in 3-shift operation.
- The plant is largely controlled from the control room by a process control system (PCS).
- Automatic emergency shut-down systems with pre-alarms are installed.
- Production areas are designed as a collection basin in accordance with the specifications of the AwSV (Ordinance on Installations Handling Water-Polluting Substances).
- Our plant is a great distance away from the closest residential housing development. A protective forest belt lies between our plant and the surrounding local area.

Our recognised part-time plant fire brigade makes a vital contribution. Besides an extensive stationary fire-fighting setup, it is also equipped with the most effective universal fire-fighting vehicle in the entire district.

The authorities have been properly notified of our plant. In addition, we have prepared a safety report in which we illustrate the effectiveness of our technical and organisational safety measures. This report has been submitted to the competent authorities. The competent supervisory authority performs an on-site inspection once a year. Current information on these appointments can be found on our website [www.oxynova.com](http://www.oxynova.com).

### **Do you need more information?**

Then please visit our website: **[www.oxynova.com](http://www.oxynova.com)**.

You can also reach us at any time using the local area and environmental hotline:  
05764 291-123

(This is answered by an answering machine. You are asked to leave your message followed by your name and phone number. We will then call you back.)

For information on the monitoring plan in accordance with Section 17(1) of the Major Accidents Ordinance, please contact the trade supervisory board (Gewerbeaufsichtsamt) of Hanover.